

ABSTRACT

Provided is a method for producing an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin that ensures efficient removal of alcohol without worsening the working environment. The method comprises introducing an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer solution containing at least 50 parts by weight of an alcohol having a boiling point of not higher than 100°C, relative to 100 parts by weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer therein, into an apparatus, and contacting it with water in the apparatus, thereby letting the alcohol along with water out of the apparatus and taking the resulting aqueous ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition that contains from 0 to 10 parts by weight of the alcohol and from 10 to 1000 parts by weight of water, relative to 100 parts by weight of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer therein, (step 1), and a step of feeding the aqueous ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer composition into an extruder, kneading it in melt therein, and then extruding the copolymer out of the extruder (step 2). Also provided is a method for producing pellets of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin, of which the advantages are that the method enables stable production and rapid washing of the pellets and that the pellets produced can enjoy stable extrusion and thermal stability in long-run extrusion working lines. The method comprises cutting the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer resin extruded out of the extruder in the step 2 in the resin

production method.